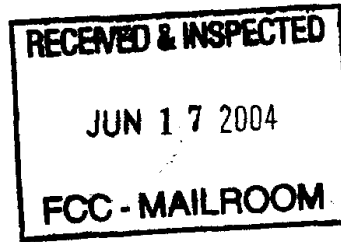


Angela B. Simmons  
2425 North Center Street, #363  
Hickory, North Carolina 28601  
(828) 328-8454

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: MM Docket No. 99-325**



Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a WFAE Board member, public radio listener and financial supporter, I would like to urge the FCC to rule that radio stations may use their digital, High Definition signals for secondary, supplemental audio channels. Listeners come to public radio station because of quality programming and the quality of our audio. High Definition radio will improve audio quality, but the decisive factor for our station is the capability to create supplemental audio programming (or "multiplexing" to use the FCC's term). The station believes the use of supplemental audio is integral to our public service mission and enables us to expand programming to meet listener needs that are either underserved or not served at all.

WFAE and WFHE could use the second channel to time-shift programming that current listeners miss because of their busy schedules. The station might use the channel to provide overseas news 24 hours a day. I sincerely value the ability to listen to the BBC in the late evenings on WFHE in Hickory. WFAE/WFHE might use the channel to provide foreign language programming. We have a great many people in our area who would appreciate more quality foreign language programming. The station might use the channel to provide alternative music programming which is not currently available in our service areas. With the consolidation of for-profit stations in our area, the need for alternative music venues is great.

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I feel second channels present enormous efficiencies. WFAE and WFHE cannot find an efficient, high power signal in their markets for service expansion under the existing technologies.

Public radio stations also need to generate revenue to fund our activities. The potential use of SAC technology for funding purposes will strengthen our ability to continue to serve the public better into the future. I am involved in the Catawba County Humane Society, Hickory Community Theater, Hickory Museum of Art, the Women's Resource Center and various other charities in our area who would greatly benefit from an alternative radio venue in which to publicize their fundraisers and activities. We would greatly appreciate your consideration of our request to allow public radio stations to use their digital signal for access to a second channel. It would greatly add to the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AB Simmons', with a stylized, cursive script.

Angela Beaver Simmons  
WFAE/WFHE Board of Directors

Cc: Roger Sarow